ONGC operations in Mehsana district

3314. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Economic Times of 24th July, 1988 regarding the study conducted by Lok Vikas highlighting the destruction of valuable land and the problems created for the local farmers due to the ONGC operations in Mehsana district; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the manner in which Government propose to solve the problem and redress the grievances of the farmers and others affected by the ONGC operations in Mehsana district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Payment of compensation to landowners is being made as determined by the revenue authorities of the State Government. ONGC's operations are being carried out strictly as per Mines and Safety Rules and it has support from the Gujarat Pollution Control Board for its operations. The reasonability of the demands of the farmers for increasing the rate of compensation in Mehsana district is under study by the Revenue Department of the State Government.

World Bank aid for Muddanur Thermal Power Project

3315. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed World Bank aid for the Muddanur Thermal Power Project in Andhra Pradesh has been received by Government: and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

World Bank concern over NTPC overdues

3316. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has indicated that future funding of the National Thermal Power Corporation would depend on the recovery of the dues by the Corporation from the State Electricity Boards and that the NTPC has requested the Central Government for assistance in the matter;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of of World Bank assistance to the NTPC;

(c) what is the annual percentage of recovery of the amount overdue by the NTPC from the State Electricity Boards and what is the outstanding amount at the end of 1987;

(d) what are the reasons for the low recovery of dues by the NTPC; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to solve the problem of accumulation of arrears by the State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) Concern has been expressed over the arrears of the National Thermal Powe Corporation (NTPC) in respect of sales of power to the State Electricity Boards etc. The NTPC have sought assistance of the government in this regard World Bank assistance to the on-going projects of NTPC amounts to about US $ 3862 million.

(c) and (d) As on 31st December. 1987, the arrears of the Electricity Boards were Rs 251.52 crores. The annual percentage of recovery from the Boards was 88 per cent in 1986-87, 91 per cent in 1987-88 and 76 per cent in 1988-89 (upto July, 1988). The financial constraints of the Boards are indicated as a major reason for the arrears.